
 PSYCHE.

 CAMBRIDGE, MASS., JUNE 1881.

Communications, exchanges and editors' copies should be addressed to EDITORS OF PSYCHE, Cambridge, Mass. Communications for publication in PSYCHE must be properly authenticated, and no anonymous articles will be published.

Editors and contributors are only responsible for the statements made in their own communications.

Works on subjects not related to entomology will not be reviewed in PSYCHE.

For rates of subscription and of advertising, see advertising columns.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

LINNEAN SOCIETY OF LONDON.

3 FEB. 1881.— . . . A paper was read by Mr. A. D. Michael, entitled, Observations on the life history of *gamasinae*. In this the author endeavors to decide some of the disputed and knotty points in reference to these humble parasites; Mr. Mégnin of Versailles and Dr. Kramer of Schleusingen, both good authorities on the subject, being at variance thereon. Mr. Michael, believing that detached observations on captured specimens may have produced unreliable results, has himself bred gamasids, closely followed their changes and growth, and watched their manners, and thus has arrived at what he assumes on good grounds to be important results respecting their life-history. He states that the remarkable power of starting each mandible separately with speed and accuracy of aim far in advance of the body, the powerful retractile muscles attached to these mandibles, the organization of the remainder of the mouth, the extreme swiftness of the creatures, the use of the front legs as tactile organs only, and not for the purpose of locomotion, and the ample supply of tactile hairs in front only, seem to fit the animals for a predatory life, and point to habits similar to those of *Chey-*

letus and *Trombidium*, rather than to those of the true vegetable-feeders, such as the *oribatidae* and *tetronychi*. He further concludes: 1, that Mégnin is correct in saying *Gamasus coleoptorum*, and other allied creatures, with the conspicuously divided dorsal plates, are not species at all, but are immature stages of other species; 2, that the division of the dorsal plate is, in most cases at all events, a question of degree, and does not form a sound basis for classification, as applied by Koch, Kramer and others; 3, that the dorsal plates do not grow gradually, but alter in size, shape, or development of the ecdysis; 4, that Mégnin is right in saying that the characteristic of the so-called *G. marginatus* is simply a provision possessed by the females of a large number of species; 5, that the extent of the white margin depends upon the extent to which the abdomen is distended by eggs; 6, that Mégnin is in error in saying that *G. coleoptorum* is the nymph of *G. crassipes*. The nymph of *crassipes* does not show any divided dorsal plates which can be seen on the living creature; 7, that in the species bred there has not been observed any inert stage before the transformations or ecdysis; 8, that in the same species copulation takes place with the adult female and not with the immature one, as Mégnin contends, and that it is by the vulva not the anus.—*Zoologischer Anzeiger*, 28 Mar. 1881, jahrg. 4, no. 79, p. 167-168.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

15 FEB. 1881.— . . . The Rev. O. P. Cambridge, C. M. Z. S., exhibited and made remarks on a hymenopterous parasite, hatched from larvae found on two spiders, *Linyphia obscura*, Blackw. ♀ and *L. zebrina*, Menge ♂. The larvae were stated to be apodous, and to adhere to the abdomen of the spider, which, when full grown, they fully equalled in size. Lord Walsingham read a paper on some new and little known species of North American *tineidae*, amongst which were three new generic forms.—*P. L. Sclater*, in *Zool. Anzeiger*, 7 March 1881, p. 117-118.